

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Hot and dry conditions continued Statewide during the first part of the week, while the weekend brought clouds, wind and rain in many areas. The Willamette Valley and especially coastal areas received significant rainfall by late Sunday. The cooler marine air was felt far inland. Eastern Oregon experienced lower temperatures and some thunderstorms by late Sunday; rainfall was measurable in several counties. Temperatures in southwest Oregon reached as high as 103 degrees earlier in the week. The Booth and Bear Butte fires merged together late in the week; altogether, they have consumed over 90,000 acres and stand at 50 percent contained. Another fire, much smaller, was reported in Umatilla County; its cause is believed to be lightning.

Field Crops: The small grain harvest was nearly completed and the third cutting of alfalfa continued Statewide. Fall field preparations were underway after some precipitation was received this week. Mint harvest was winding down in Baker and Union counties and continues in Klamath and Marion counties. Grass seed has been harvested and the hop harvest was in full swing in Marion County. Red clover seed harvest was winding down in Marion and Washington counties. New seedlings of grass were being planted in Washington County.

Vegetables: Garlic harvest was wrapping up in Deschutes County; potato harvest still had not started in Morrow County. In the Willamette Valley, the sweet corn harvest was on schedule and the green bean harvest nearly was complete. Pumpkin patches were starting to show some yellow with some non-irrigated fields showing stress. There were plenty of vegetables available at farmers markets and roadside stands.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: The main nursery activity continued to be irrigation along with getting ready for the fall marketing season. Greenhouses were busy with fall vegetables and flower starts. In Curry County, Easter lily growers were sampling bulbs in the field for bulb size, number of daughter scales, sprouts, and root vigor.

Fruit: Bartlett pear harvest was winding down in Parkdale and d'Anjou pear harvest was just beginning in Hood River. Southern Oregon pear harvest was in full swing. Willamette Valley plums for prunes, pears, and apples were picked. Apple cider was available at roadside stands in Washington County. Peaches, pears and apples continued to be harvested in The Dalles and the Mosier area. Wine grape harvest is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Dry conditions continued last week and pasture land across the State is very dry. Fires were still burning in eastern Oregon. The threat of fire remained high. Cattle movement continued in Lake, Baker, and Union counties. Pasture land in western Oregon was dry, but cattle were in good condition where supplemental feed was available.

Crop Progress Week Ending 9/7/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley harvested (%)	96	93	94	84
Spring wheat harvested (%)	98	95	100	96
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.7	6.8	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 9/7/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	35	51	14	—
Subsoil (%)	40	45	15	—

Crop Condition Week Ending 9/7/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	9	27	44	19	1

CLACKAMAS: Sunday evening showers heralded the end of the long summer rainless days. Nearly an inch of rain in a short period. Most growers have been postponing fall soil preparations. Evergreen blackberry picking continued. Other berry fields were being renovated. Sweet corn harvest continued on schedule. Green beans near completion. Pumpkin patches are starting to show yellow and some non-irrigated fields show stress. Some nurseries are getting a jump on the fall marketing season. Livestock are still in mostly good condition with considerable supplemental feeding. Dryland pastures still look pathetic from lack of moisture. Prunes ripe and ready for harvest; they probably will be the only crop not benefitting from rain.

COOS\CURRY: Dry weather continued with occasional cloudiness and a few sprinkles. Very breezy early in the week. Cranberry leaf tissue sampling continued. In Curry County, Easter lily growers were sampling bulbs in the field for bulb size, number of daughter scales, sprouts, and root vigor. In Coos County, several producers reported problems with climbing cutworms in field corn, canary grass pastures and hay fields. In some cases, foliage was severely eaten by these cutworms.

JACKSON: Warm, dry weather favorable for haying. Grain harvest is completed. Haying continued with third cutting of alfalfa and second cuttings of grass hay. Some ground preparation being done getting ready for fall plantings. Pear harvest continued with mostly Bartletts and some Seckel pears, and also some Comice and Red varieties. It is being reported that the pear crop is packing out slightly lower than estimated. Most berry harvest are about over. The hot, dry weather did not make for a very good blackberry crop. Vintners are watching and getting ready for harvest of early varieties. Vegetable farmers still busy with harvest, with lots of good vegetables at roadside stands and farmers markets. Greenhouses busy with fall vegetable and flower starts. Nurseries busy with watering and care of stock on hand. Hot weather and no rain means lots of close care of stock to keep it looking at its best. Still lots of irrigation of pastures, with ranchers trying to keep good green feed for animals. Most all livestock looks good to excellent, if on good pasture and supplemental feeding.

JOSEPHINE: Nice to have a reprieve - measurable rain! Cooler with lots of marine air. Crops are good. Truck gardens are doing well. Blueberries done. Leaves burnt off very small nut crop. Walnuts and hazelnuts are insignificant to none. Grapes are looking very good and the cooler weather may push harvest up. Some apples, depending on where the trees are located. Nurseries are doing well in fall stock.

LANE: This drought has gone from moderate to severe.

LINN: Again, unseasonably hot and dry early in the week. Cooler temperatures and light rain later in the week.

MARION: Grass seed harvest is all but finished. Red clover seed harvest is winding down and essentially all grain harvest is done or should be in the next couple of days. Hop harvest is in full swing; a couple of growers are nearly finished and others have another week or so to go. Yields are mixed; some average and others a bit low. Mint harvest continues; mostly what is left to harvest are baby fields and the second harvest of "double cut" fields. Field preparation is underway for fall seeding of grass and grain crops. Sweet corn and hop harvest continues. Fall crop fieldwork continues. Hazelnut orchard floor preparation work completed for nut harvest; nuts are dropping now.

WASHINGTON: Received 0.4 inches of rain Sunday afternoon and a sprinkle Saturday night. Sweet corn continues to be harvested for the processors. Field corn is doing well. Red clover is being threshed out and new seeding of grass is being done. Farmers markets have about everything one would want - prunes, pears, apples, squash, blackberries, cucumbers, tomatoes and many other vegetables. Apples are being picked and cider is offered at roadside stands. Irrigating caneberries for next year's crop and before trellising. Pastures are dried up. Nurseries continue rotation to new areas. Grapes ready for harvest in the next 10 to 14 days; looking good. Beets for seed harvested. Cattle continue to show good condition.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Grain harvest winding down. Mint finished with good yields. Third cutting alfalfa underway. More cattle coming home early due to lack of water and/or feed.

DESCHUTES: Garlic and wheat harvest wrapping up. Carrot and onion seed harvest underway.

HOOD RIVER: Bartlett pear harvest was winding down in Parkdale and d'Anjou pear harvest just beginning in Hood River at week's end.

KLAMATH: Grain harvest and third alfalfa cutting continues. Mint harvest underway. Potato harvest preconditioning has started.

LAKE: Received very little moisture in some areas, along with a little thunder and lightening. Third cutting is starting in some areas. Some producers are starting to gather cows and move them to fall pastures.

MORROW: Rainfall Sunday night ranged from 0.3 to 0.5 inches, depending on location. Rainfall will prompt some to begin seeding. Most will hold out for at least another week or two.

UNION: The majority of the week was hot and dry, but a cold front appearing near the end of the weekend caused a drastic weather change, with moisture falling from the sky and temperatures dropping 25 to 30 degrees over a few hours. As a result, it is now cold and rainy, with low temperatures near 50 degrees and winds around 20 mph. Quite a change from the clear skies and 90 plus degrees of the last few days. This should alleviate some of the grazing land drought conditions, even though it may prove problematic for those with hay down in the fields. Tilling of fields in preparation of fall planting has begun. The last of the mint harvest is coming to a close. Still waiting for the potato and the sugarbeet harvests to start.

WALLOWA: The spring crops are not yielding very well, due to lack of moisture and high temperatures this spring. Clouds moved in by the end of the week, but temperatures are still high. Livestock pastures are pretty well burnt up and at this point it will take a lot of rain to make any fall pasture.

WASCO: Field cultivation and fertilization continued on summer fallow ground being readied for winter wheat seeding. Grain planting will start first in the Tygh Ridge and Center Ridge areas. Fruit harvest continued in The Dalles and Mosier areas on peaches, pears and apples. Final alfalfa hay cutting is under way, while livestock are holding their own on dwindling pasture conditions. The temperature dropped sharply on Sunday with threatening rain clouds, but no rain.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	48	82	62	3	85	15	0.55	0.03	1	0.55	0.03	106	1
Crescent City	48	76	59	1	67	4	0.19	-0.12	2	0.19	-0.12	61	2
Florence	37	85	58	-3	60	-17	0.48	0.04	2	0.48	0.04	109	2
North Bend	46	70	57	-3	54	-15	0.08	-0.26	2	0.08	-0.26	24	2
Tillamook	38	74	60	2	71	8	0.52	-0.15	2	0.52	-0.15	78	2
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	48	99	70	7	145	45	0.10	-0.18	1	0.10	-0.18	36	1
Eugene	47	97	70	5	138	30	0.06	-0.29	1	0.06	-0.29	17	1
Hillsboro	46	96	70	8	146	52	0.02	-0.28	1	0.02	-0.28	7	1
McMinnville	44	95	69	6	139	39	0.10	-0.20	1	0.10	-0.20	93	1
Portland	55	94	73	8	164	50	0.04	-0.33	1	0.04	-0.33	11	1
Salem	46	96	70	6	140	39	0.00	-0.28	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	55	103	76	9	186	60	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Medford	55	103	76	8	184	51	0.10	-0.07	1	0.10	-0.07	59	1
Roseburg	55	103	74	8	171	56	0.08	-0.14	1	0.08	-0.14	36	1
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	50	94	72	12	152	74	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	0.21	0	0
Heppner	52	98	76	12	180	77	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Hermiston	49	99	75	9	175	55	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
John Day	54	98	73	11	166	75	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0
Moro	50	95	74	12	171	80	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Pendleton	55	100	77	11	189	68	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.13	0	0
The Dalles	54	101	77	15	191	99	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	44	97	71	12	146	82	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Burns	40	94	67	8	118	53	0.01	-0.13	1	0.01	-0.13	7	1
Klamath Falls	42	91	67	5	118	30	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Lakeview	39	90	64	4	101	23	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Redmond	41	101	69	9	137	62	0.13	-0.01	2	0.13	-0.01	93	2
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	43	94	66	6	117	38	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0
Joseph	51	92	71	15	148	97	0.06	-0.22	1	0.06	-0.22	21	1
La Grande	45	99	70	7	144	46	0.00	-0.24	0	0.00	-0.24	0	0
Union	46	99	72	11	154	72	0.01	-0.27	1	0.01	-0.27	4	1
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	50	93	73	6	162	39	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0
Rome	50	97	73	10	160	62	0.11	-0.03	1	0.11	-0.03	79	1

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Oregon Crop Weather 23-03
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